



CHALLENGERS

OF THE



JAN.
NO. 77

UNKNOWN

15c

ANOTHER
MONSTROUS
CREATURE
RELEASED FROM
ONE OF THOSE
MAGIC BOTTLES!
WE'RE TRAPPED!

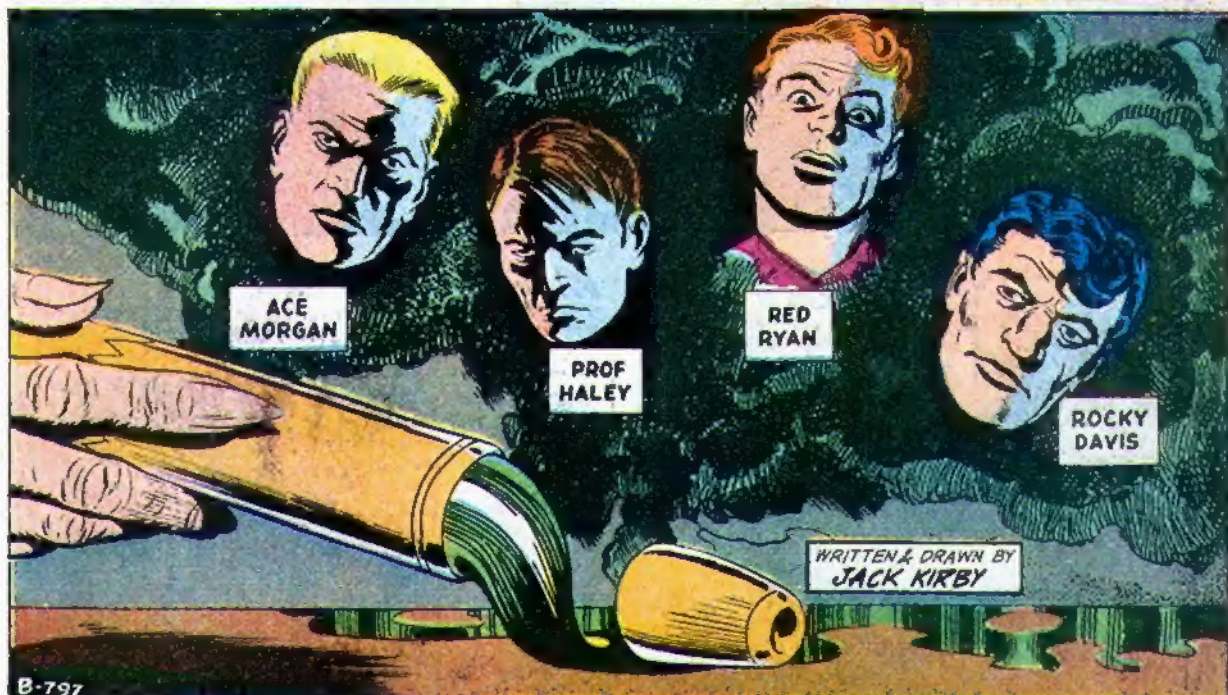


Featuring
**MENACE
OF THE
ANCIENT
VIALS.**

WHAT WAS THE NATURE OF THE STRANGE, UNKNOWN FORCES MANIPULATED BY THE BRILLIANT MINDS OF THE ANCIENT PAST? FROM THE VERY DAWN OF HISTORY TO THIS VERY DAY, MANKIND HAS BEEN BAFFLED BY THE DARK, NAMELESS POWERS THAT ARE NOT OF THIS EARTH--POWERS SPOKEN OF IN FEARFUL WHISPERS FROM AGE TO AGE. WHEN THESE FORCES ARE SUDDENLY RELEASED UPON OUR MODERN WORLD IN ALL THEIR DESTRUCTIVE FURY, **THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN** PIT THEIR COURAGE AND INGENUITY IN A FIGHT TO THE FINISH AGAINST...

THE **MENACE OF THE ANCIENT VIALS!**

Showcase 12



ACE
MORGAN

PROF
HALEY

RED
RYAN

ROCKY
DAVIS

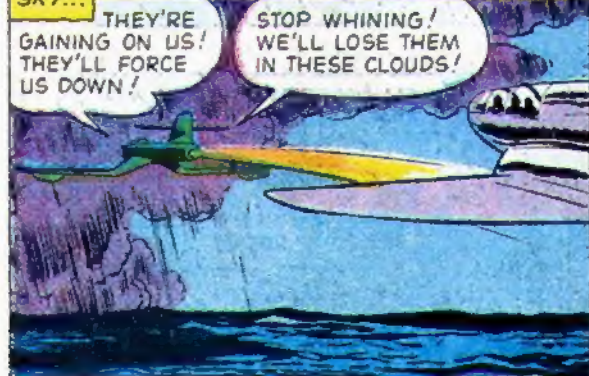
WRITTEN & DRAWN BY
JACK KIRBY

B-797

DARK, TURBULENT CLOUDS GATHER OMINOUSLY OVER THE CALM PACIFIC OCEAN AS THE TWO PLANES STREAK ACROSS THE THREATENING SKY...

THEY'RE
GAINING ON US!
THEY'LL FORCE
US DOWN!

STOP WHINING!
WE'LL LOSE THEM
IN THESE CLOUDS!



FLIGHT AND GRIM PURSUIT--AN AGE-OLD DRAMA OF JUSTICE VERSUS EVIL ENACTED WITH THE JET THRUST OF A SUPERSONIC ERA! IN THE PURSUING PLANE ARE THE **CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN!**

DUCKING INTO THOSE
CLOUDS WON'T HELP
THEM!

STICK TO 'EM, ACE! KARNAK
AND HIS GANG OF INTER-
NATIONAL ESPIONAGE AGENTS
MUST BE PUT UNDER
LOCK AND KEY!



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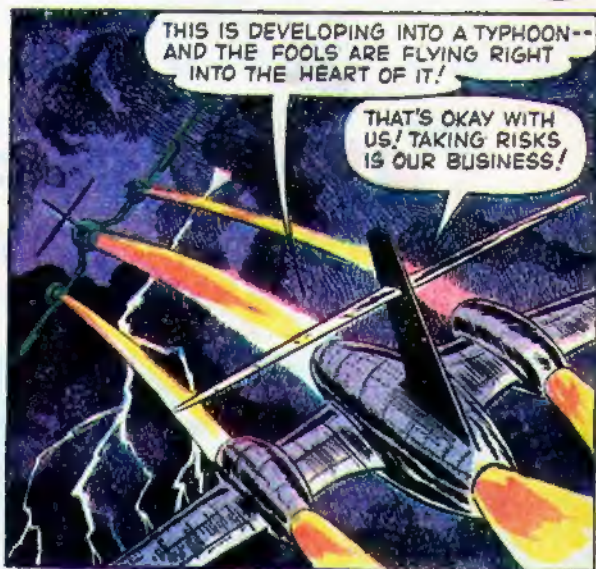
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CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



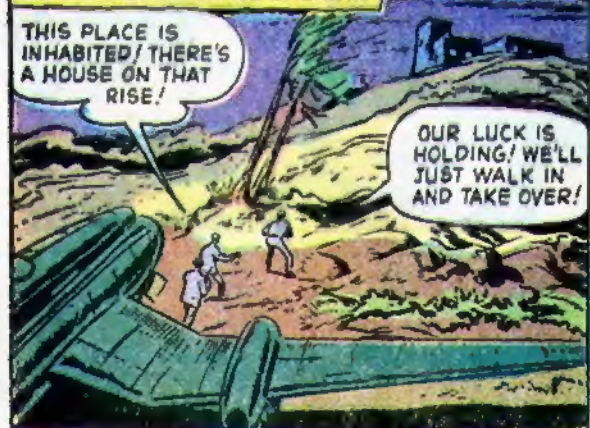
ACE MORGAN... ROCKY DAVIS... PROF. HALEY AND RED RYAN--NAMES THAT STAND FOR COURAGE IN THE FACE OF DEATH AND DEFIANCE OF OVERWHELMING ODDS!



MEANWHILE, THE CRIMINALS ARE IN DESPERATE STRAITS! BATTERED AND HURLED ABOUT IN THE STORM, THEIR DESTRUCTION SEEMS INEVITABLE, WHEN SUDDENLY...



IT APPEARS FROM NOWHERE--ONE OF THE MANY REMOTE LITTLE ISLANDS THAT DOT THE VAST UNCHARTED SEA LANES, KARNAK MANAGES A SAFE LANDING ON ITS SHORE...





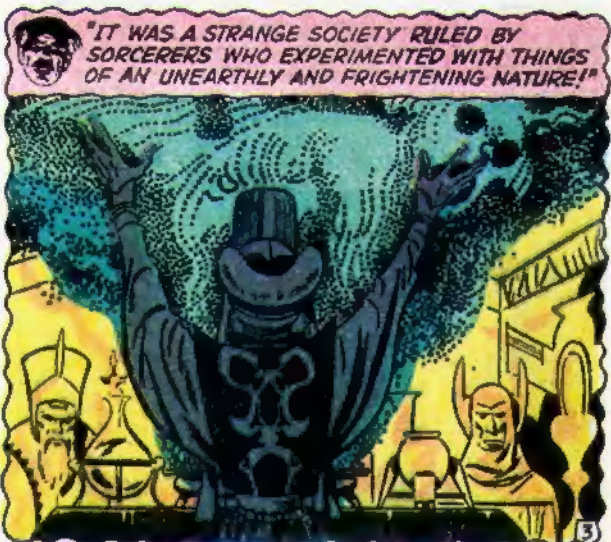
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

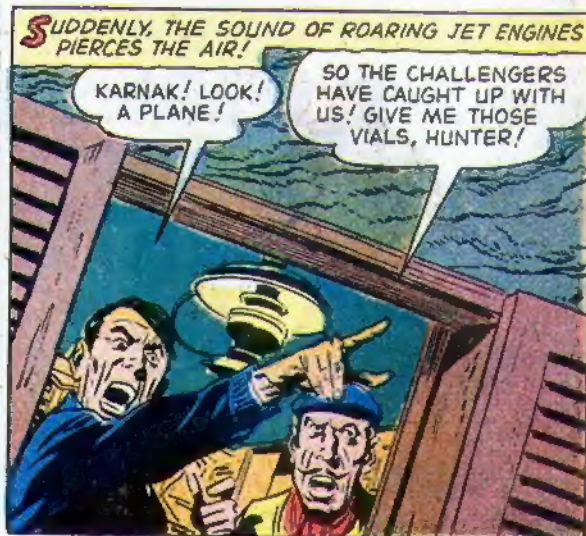


KARNAK AND HIS MEN ACCEPT THE OFFER BUT THEIR EVIL CURIOSITY IS NOW AROUSED...

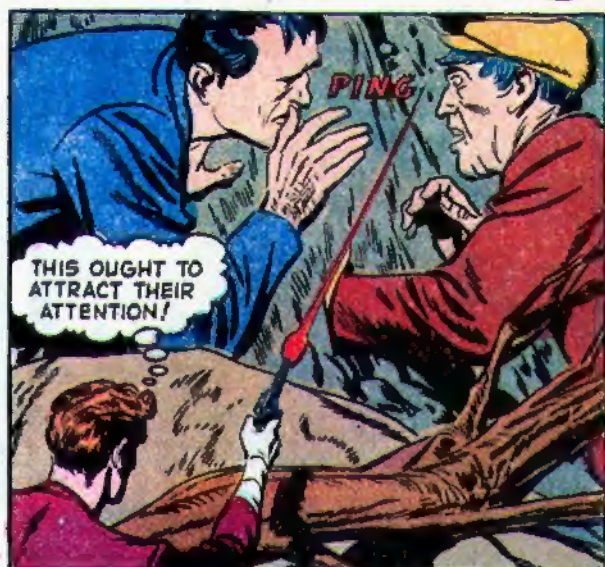


AWARE THAT HE IS AT THE MERCY OF RUTHLESS MEN, KARNAK'S HOST IS FORCED TO REVEAL HIS SECRET!

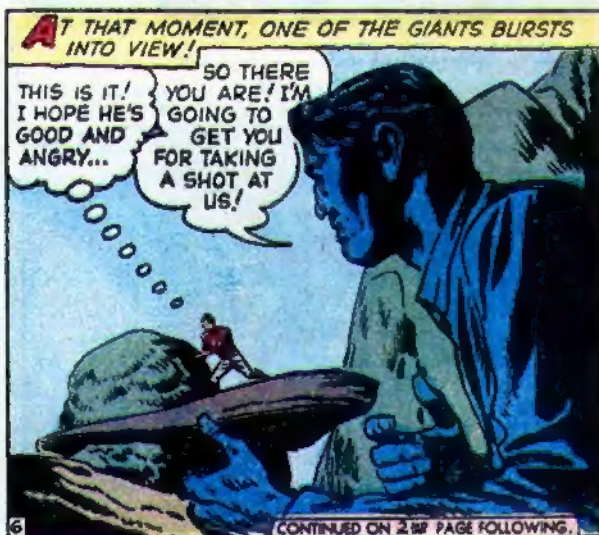








SUDDENLY, RED HALTS IN HIS HEADLONG FLIGHT...



THE SORCERY THAT PRODUCED GIANTS IN THE ANCIENT PAST HAS UNLEASHED THE SAME PHENOMENON TODAY. TWO DANGEROUS MEN, NOW GROWN TO MENACING, MAMMOTH SIZE, ARE DETERMINED TO CRUSH THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN! BUT JUST AS FORMIDABLE ARE THE FOUR REMAINING VIALS AND THE MAGIC THEY HOLD WITHIN THEM! FOR WHATEVER THE FEAR THAT FOLLOWS IN THE WAKE OF THE STALKING GIANTS, THE VIALS YIELD YET ANOTHER MYSTIFYING CREATURE FROM THE UNKNOWN--

CHAPTER TWO

THE FIRE BEING!

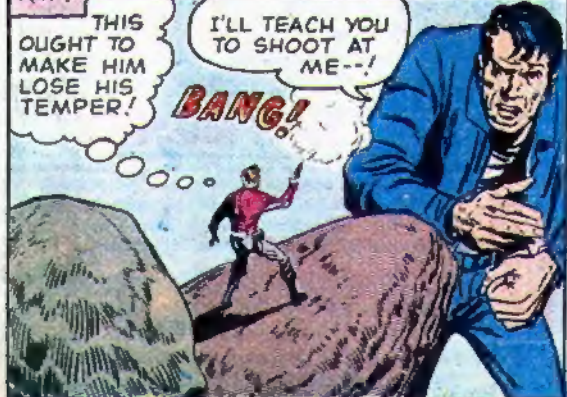


USING HIMSELF AS BAIT, RED RYAN HAS LURED THE GIANTS FROM THE CAVE WHERE THEY HAD TRAPPED HIS FRIENDS. NOW, ON A STRANGELY SHAPED ROCK FORMATION, RED FACES ONE OF THE GIANTS WHO HAS HUNTED HIM!

THIS OUGHT TO MAKE HIM LOSE HIS TEMPER!

I'LL TEACH YOU TO SHOOT AT ME--!

BANG!



THE FLYING BOULDER STRIKES THE GIANT WITH THE FORCE OF THE PEBBLE WHICH HUMBLING GOLIATH! HE CRASHES TO THE GROUND!



IT WORKED! HE'S OUT LIKE A LIGHT! NOW TO DOUBLE BACK AND JOIN THE BOYS... THEY MUST HAVE ESCAPED FROM THAT CAVE BY THIS TIME!



SUDDENLY...

OH, OH! HERE COMES THAT OTHER OVERGROWN HOODLUM! IF I CAN MAKE THE TOP OF THIS RISE WITHOUT HIS SEEING ME--



NO SOAP! FROM HIS HEIGHT, HE CAN SPOT ANYTHING MOVING FOR MILES! HE'LL PICK ME OFF LIKE A BEETLE ON A WALL!

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU TRICKED BROMMER... BUT YOU WON'T GET AWAY FROM ME!



HI, PAL! WANT A RIDE?

ROCKY!



HOW DID YOU FIND ME, ROCKY? WHERE ARE ACE AND PROF?

WHEN THE GIANTS TOOK OFF AFTER YOU, I FOLLOWED THEIR FOOTPRINTS--BIG AS PARKING LOTS! ACE AND PROF STAYED BEHIND TO BUILD A TRAP!



I GET THE IDEA... **WE'RE** THE BAIT!

THAT'S RIGHT, PAL! WE'RE GOING TO LEAD THAT GIANT WHERE WE CAN PUT THE SKIDS UNDER HIM!

REACHING THEIR FRIENDS, RED AND ROCKY REALIZE THAT THEY ARE AT THE EDGE OF A CLIFF AND UNABLE TO RETREAT ANY FURTHER FROM THE ONCOMING GIANT!



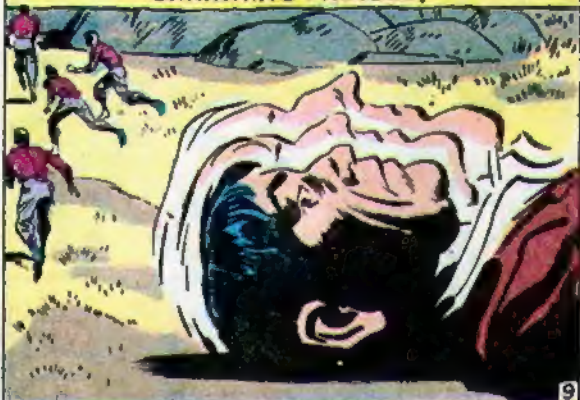
BUT, SUDDENLY, AS THE GIANT CHARGES THE CHALLENGERS...



AND WHEN...AT LAST, THE GIANTS HAVE BEEN BOUND...



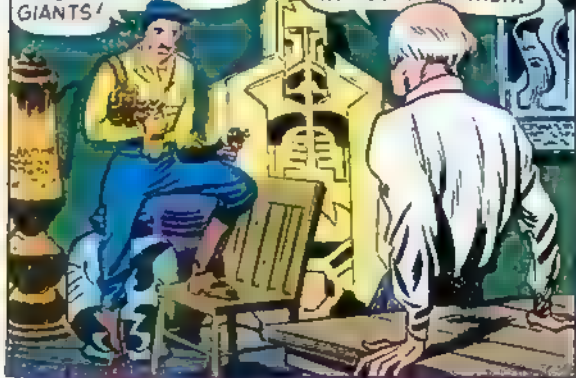
BUT EVEN AS THE CHALLENGERS LEAVE THEIR MAMMOTH MEN AND CONVERGE ON AMOS HUNTER'S HOUSE, A STRANGE PROCESS BEGINS IN THE BODIES OF THE CAPTIVES--A SHRINKING PROCESS!



MEANWHILE, IN THE OLD ARCHAEOLOGIST'S HOUSE, KARNAK WAITS FOR NEWS OF THE CHALLENGERS' DESTRUCTION...

I'VE NO DOUBT THAT MY GIANTS HAVE MADE SHORT WORK OF THEM! VERY VALUABLE ASSETS--GIANTS!

IF WHAT YOU TOLD ME OF THESE CHALLENGERS IS TRUE, THEY'VE PROBABLY OUT-WITTED YOUR MEN!



TIME AND LUCK HELPED, TOO! DROP YOUR GUN, KARNAK! YOU'RE THROUGH!

THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN! BUT HOW--?



WE'LL ASK THE QUESTIONS, KARNAK! AND YOU'D BETTER COME ACROSS WITH THE RIGHT ANSWERS!

MAKE HIM RETURN THOSE VIALS, GENTLEMEN! IN HIS HANDS, THEY MAY RELEASE PHENOMENA MORE DESTRUCTIVE THAN GIANTS!



THE OLD FOOL DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S SAYING!

HAND OVER THOSE VIALS, KARNAK! AFTER WHAT WE SAW, WE'RE READY TO BELIEVE ANYTHING HE SAYS!



ABRUPTLY...

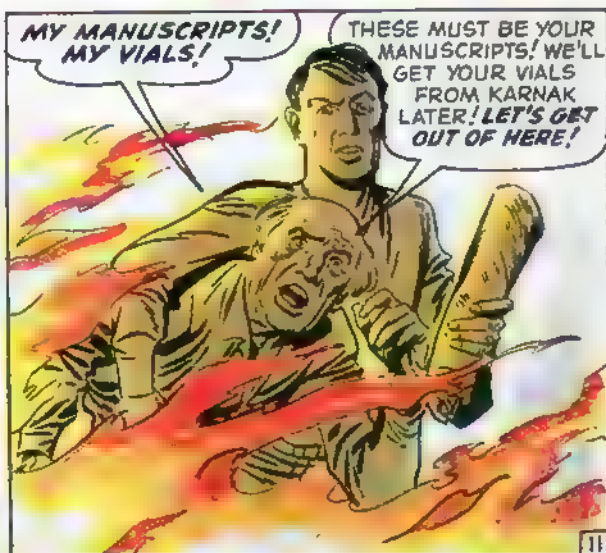
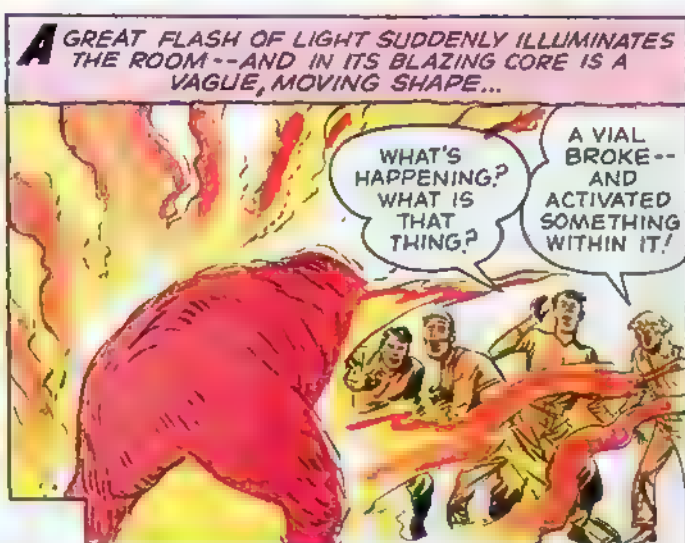
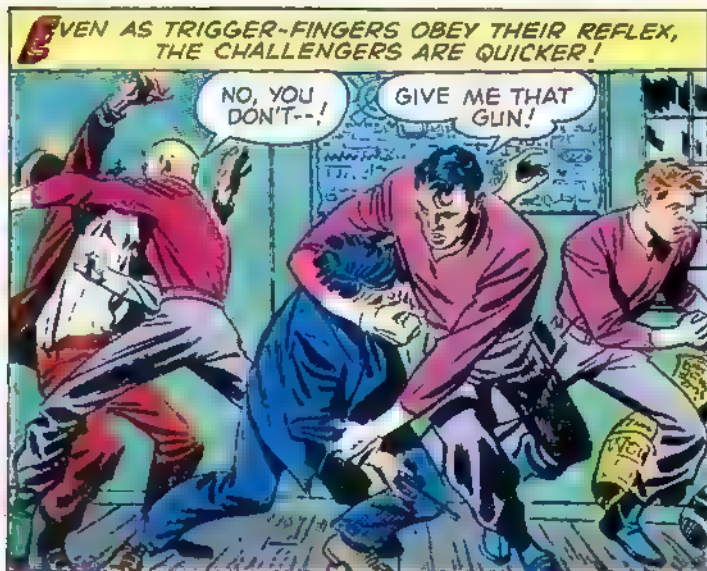
THEN YOU SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED BY OUR SHOWING UP AGAIN! --REDUCED TO NORMAL SIZE!

THAT STUFF WEARS OFF AFTER AWHILE-- BUT NOT THE BRUISES! WE OWE YOU GUYS SOMETHING FOR THAT!



YOU SEE, GENTLEMEN? YOUR EFFORTS HAVE BEEN WASTED! FATE HAS WILLED THAT YOU DIE BY OUR HANDS!



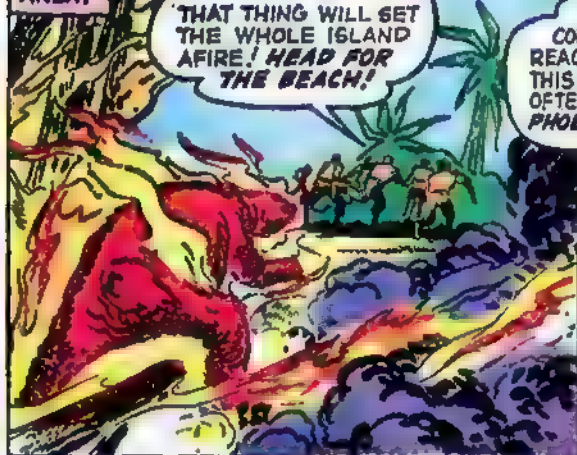




CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



IN MOMENTS, THE FIRE CREATURE REDUCES THE HOUSE TO A MASS OF FLAMES, AND MOVES FORWARD TO IGNITE THE SURROUNDING AREA!

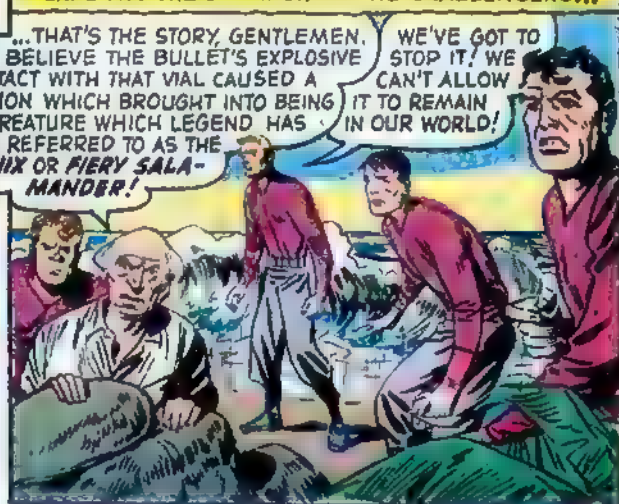


THAT THING WILL SET THE WHOLE ISLAND AFIRE! HEAD FOR THE BEACH!

...THAT'S THE STORY, GENTLEMEN. I BELIEVE THE BULLET'S EXPLOSIVE CONTACT WITH THAT VIAL CAUSED A REACTION WHICH BROUGHT INTO BEING THIS CREATURE WHICH LEGEND HAS OFTEN REFERRED TO AS THE PHOENIX OR FIERY SALAMANDER!

WE'VE GOT TO STOP IT! WE CAN'T ALLOW IT TO REMAIN IN OUR WORLD!

SAFE AT THE SANDY SHORELINE, AMOS HUNTER EXPLAINS THE SITUATION TO THE CHALLENGERS...



LET'S NOT FORGET KARNAK AND HIS JACKALS! THEY'RE STILL ON THE LOOSE--WITH THE THREE REMAINING VIALS!

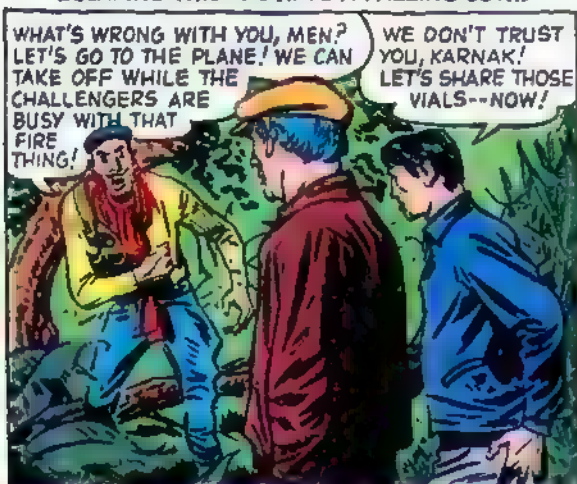


THEN WE'LL SPLIT UP AGAIN! RED AND ROCKY WILL ROUND UP THE KARNAK GANG WHILE PROF AND I TAKE CARE OF THIS FIRE THING! AGREED?

THERE'S LITTLE TIME TO DISAGREE! COME ON, ROCKY!



MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE ON THE ISLAND, THE ESCAPING THIEVES HAVE A FALLING OUT...



WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, MEN? LET'S GO TO THE PLANE! WE CAN TAKE OFF WHILE THE CHALLENGERS ARE BUSY WITH THAT FIRE THING!

WE DON'T TRUST YOU, KARNAK! LET'S SHARE THOSE VIALS--NOW!

YOU MUST BE MAD! THIS WHOLE PLACE IS GOING UP IN SMOKE, EVEN AS WE'RE TALKING!

THEN WHY WASTE TIME? DO YOU COME ACROSS WITH THOSE VIALS--OR DO WE TAKE 'EM?



THE GREED OF DESPERATE MEN, RUNNING WILD AND UNCHECKED, PROVES AS DANGEROUS TO THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN AS THE STRANGE CREATURES THAT EMERGE FROM THE REALM BEYOND TIME AND SPACE! THE STRUGGLE WITH KARNAK'S GANG HAS PRODUCED THE FLAME BEING! BUT THE BATTLE ISN'T OVER-- AND ITS FURY WILL PRODUCE A MORE OVERWHELMING MENACE...

THE DEMON FROM THE DEPTHS

CHAPTER
3

RED!
WE'RE
TRAPPED!

THAT THIRD
VIAL
PACKED THE
BIGGEST
SURPRISE
YET! IT SMASHED
THIS BOAT LIKE A
TOY!



IN THE FACE OF THE FIERY CHAOS SPREADING RAPIDLY IN THE WAKE OF THE ADVANCING FIRE BEING, KARNAK AND HIS MEN DISPUTE THE SHARING OF THE MAGIC VIALS!

ALL RIGHT, TAKE
THE VIALS-- IF
YOU CAN!

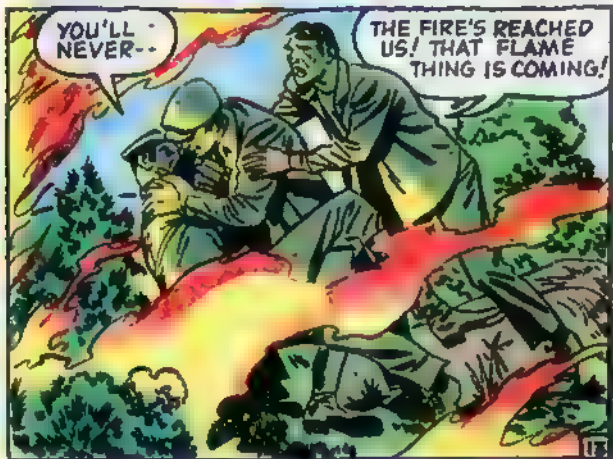
YOU WON'T GET AWAY
WITH THIS,
KARNAK!

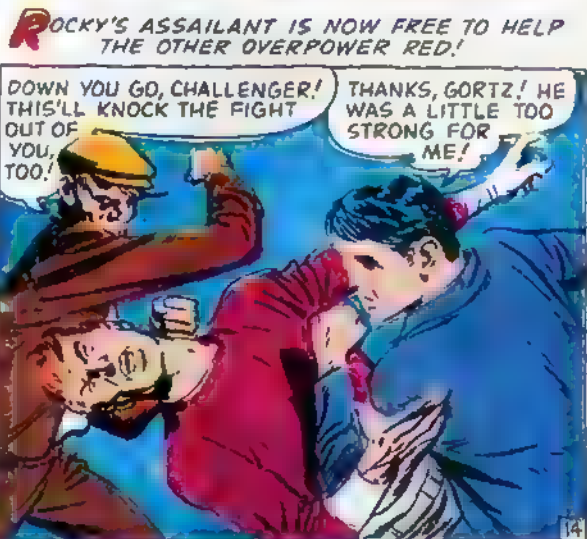
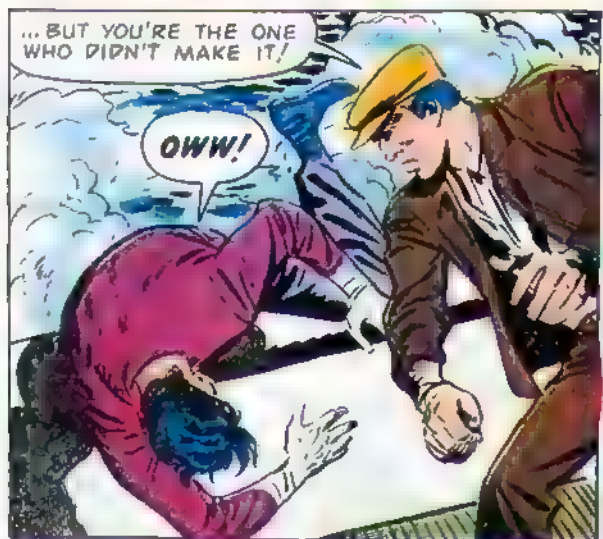
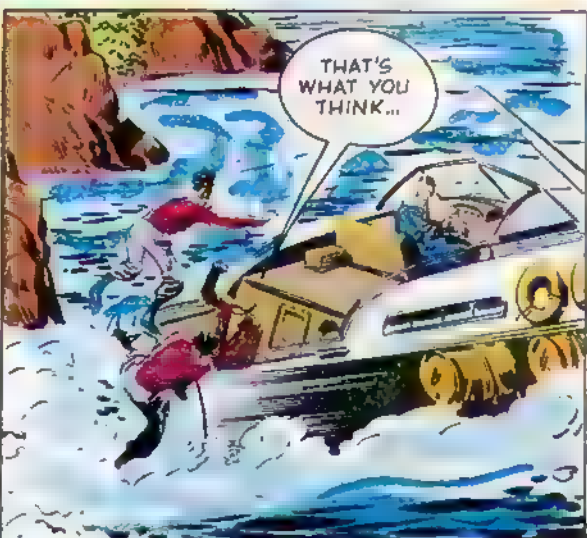
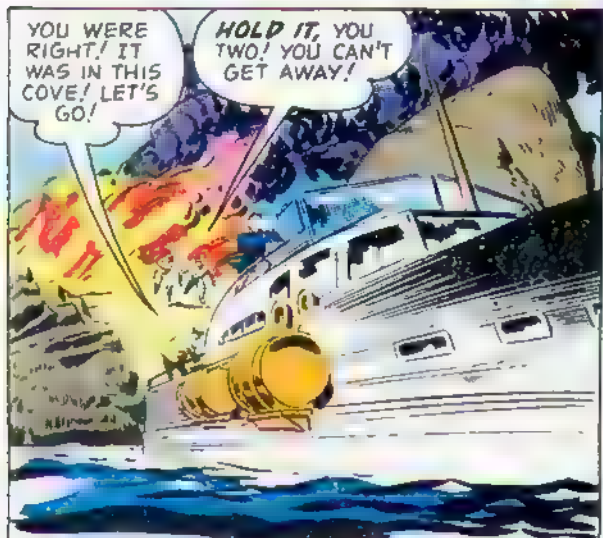
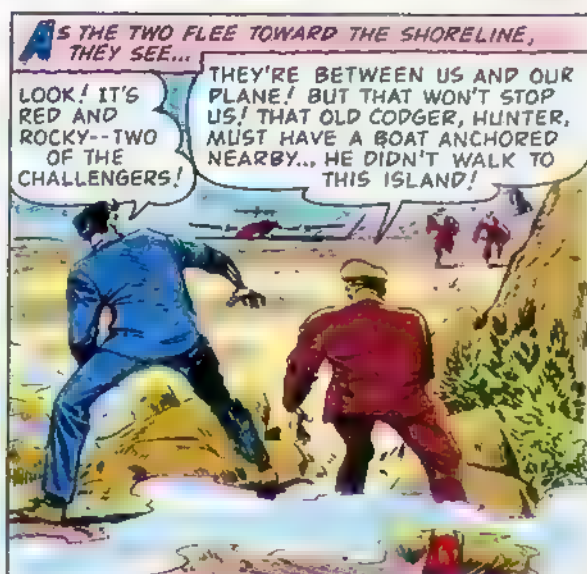


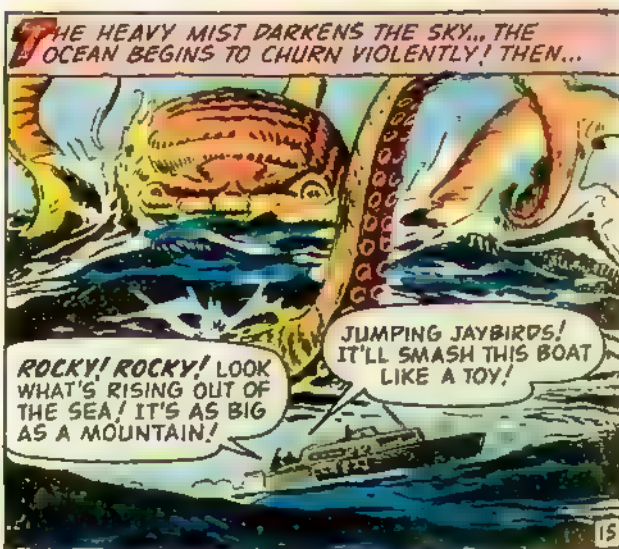
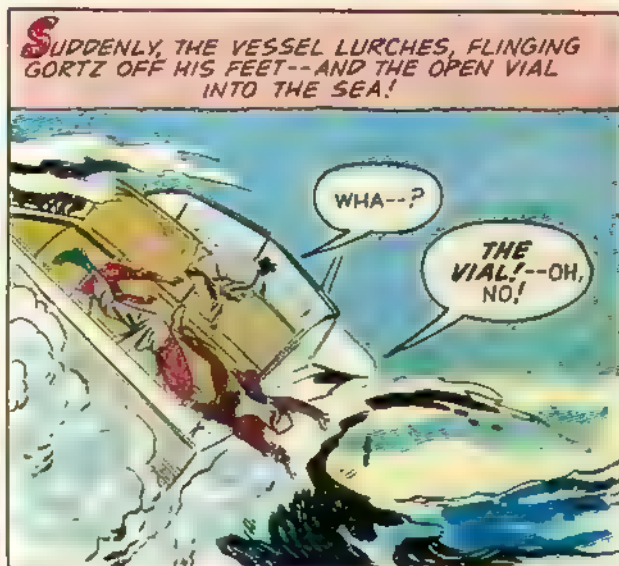
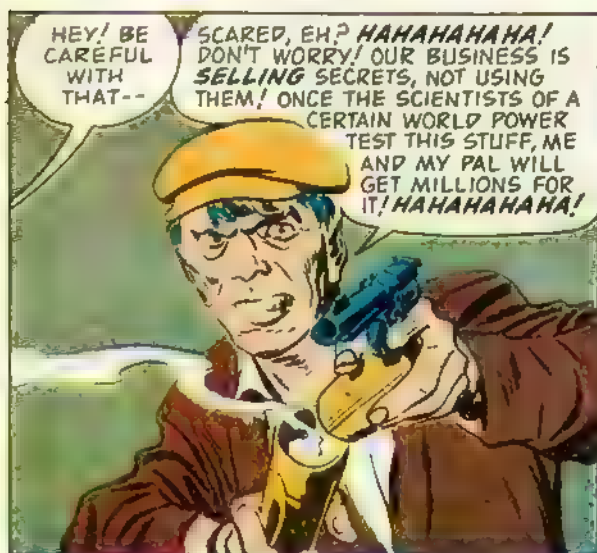
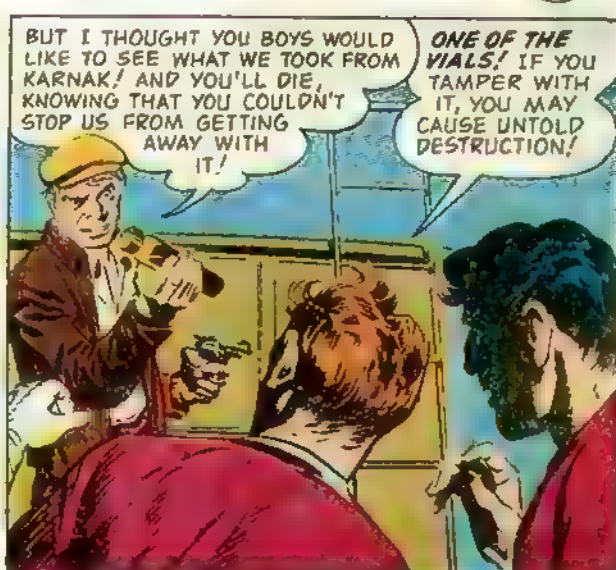
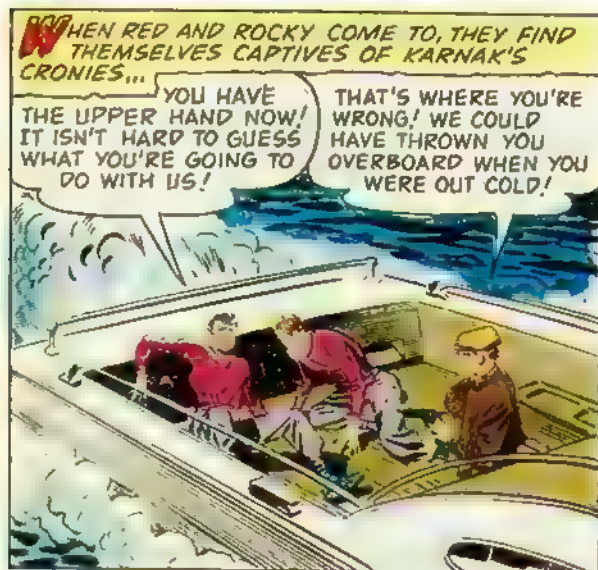
A BITTER STRUGGLE ENSUES... WHEN, SUDDENLY, THE SURROUNDING FOLIAGE BURSTS INTO FLAME!

YOU'LL
NEVER--

THE FIRE'S REACHED
US! THAT FLAME
THING IS COMING!

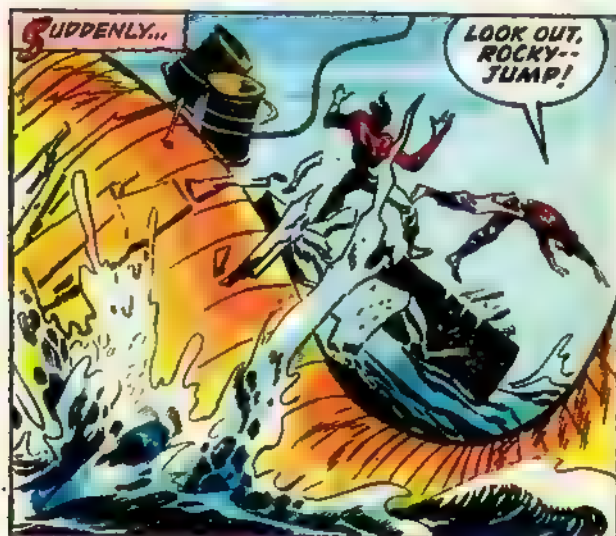
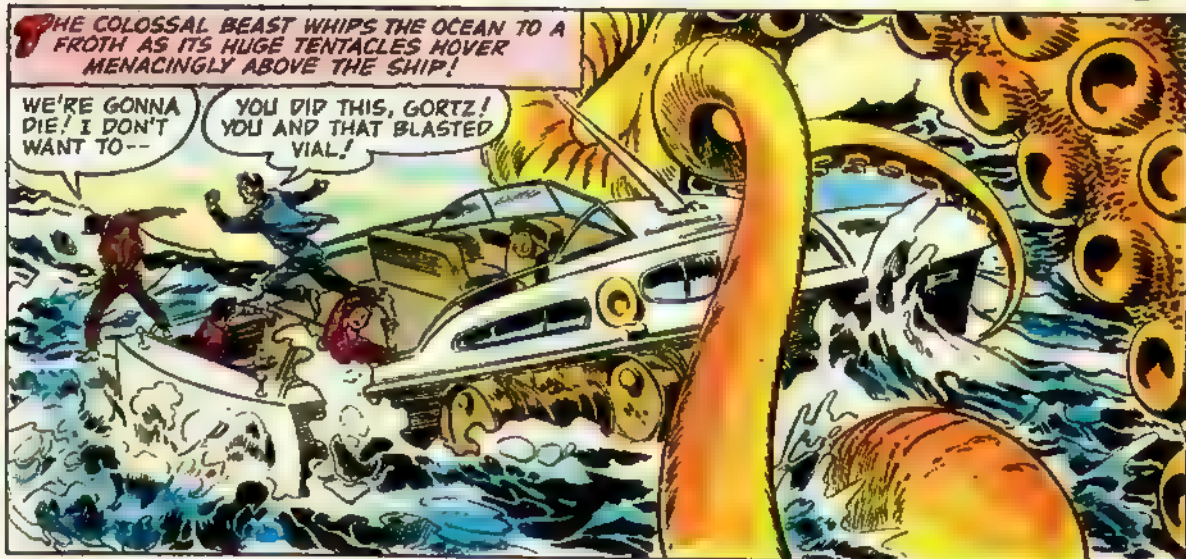




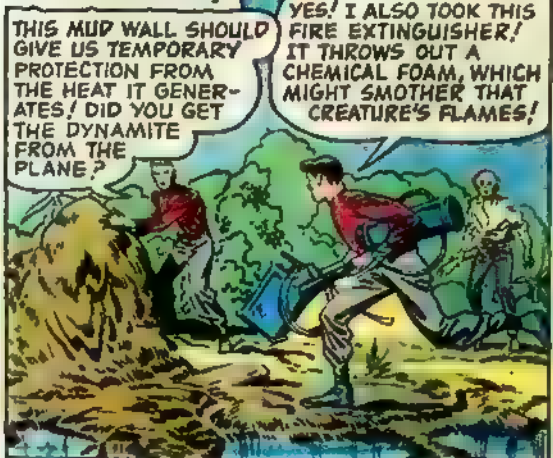




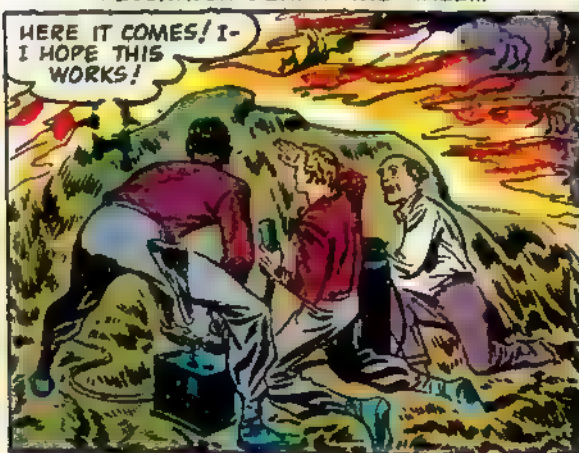
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



MEANWHILE, BACK ON THE ISLAND, ACE, PROF AND AMOS HUNTER FACE THE APPROACHING FIRE BEING!

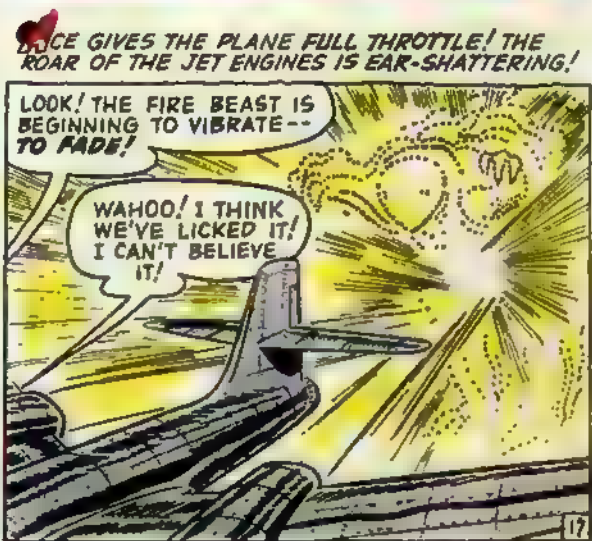
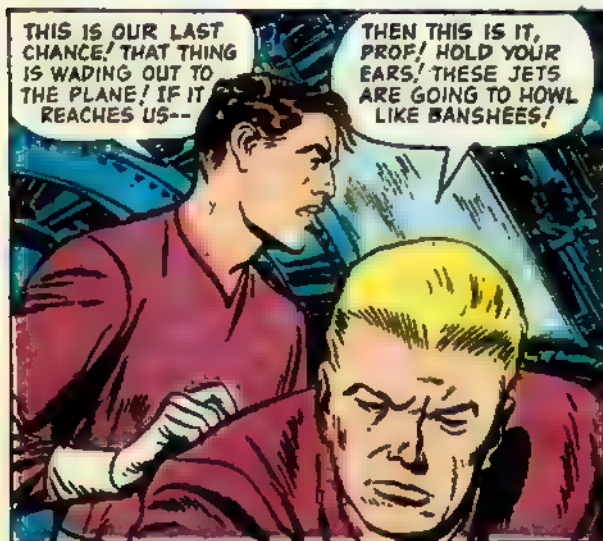
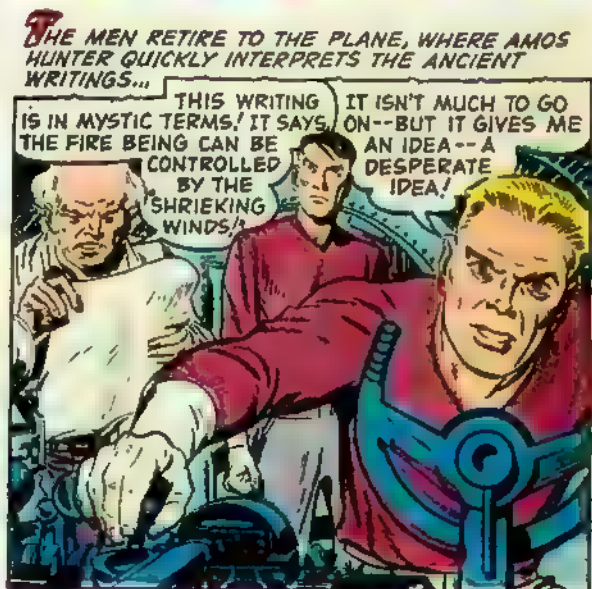
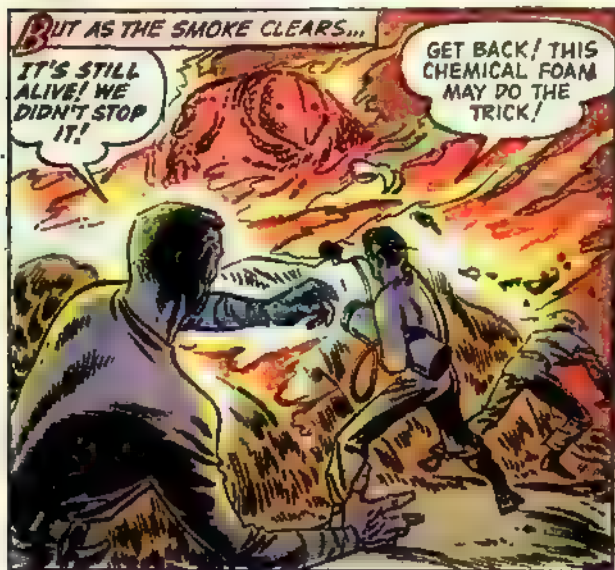


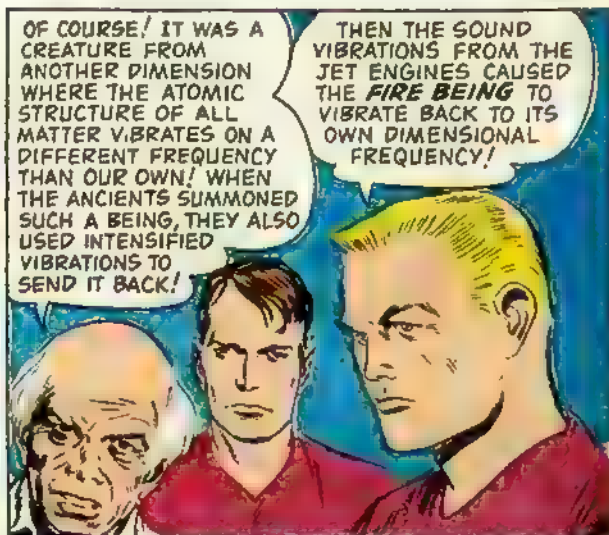
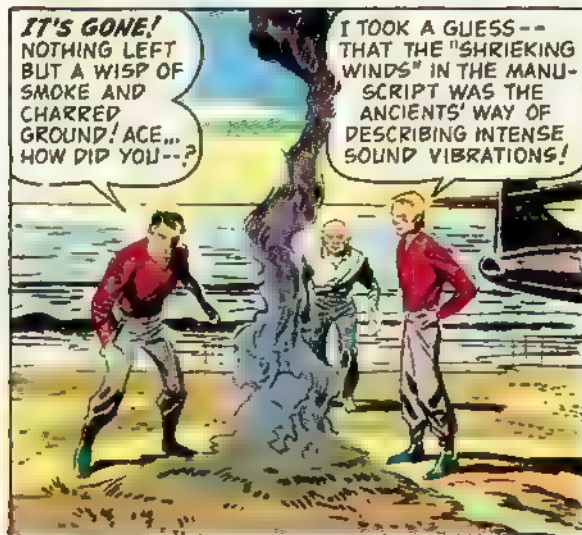
HURRIEDLY PLANTING THE DYNAMITE IN THE PATH OF THE FLAME BEAST, ACE WIRES IT TO A DETONATOR BEHIND THE WALL...



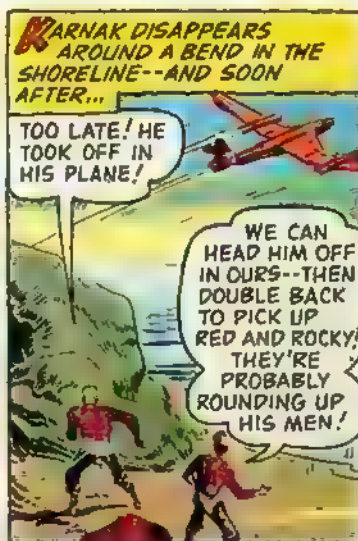
AND AS THE FIRE BEING LUMBERS INTO THE TRAP...



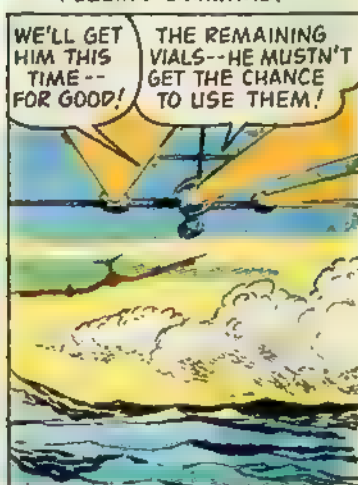




AT THAT MOMENT...



THE PURSUIT IS SWIFT AND DETERMINED, AS THE CHALLENGERS BEAR DOWN ON THE FLEEING CRIMINAL!



STILL AT GRIPS WITH ANOTHER STRANGE AND FEARFUL LIFE FORM, RELEASED BY THE ANCIENT VIALS, THE **CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN** FACE IT WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT VICTORY OR DEFEAT WILL MATTER LITTLE UNLESS THE REMAINING VIALS ARE ACCOUNTED FOR! BUT WHERE HAS KARNAK FLED WITH THEM? THE ASTOUNDING ANSWER IS **EVERYWHERE!** FOR THE VIALS ARE SOON TO CREATE A MOST DIABOLICAL PUZZLE...

THE DEADLY DUPLICATES!

CHAPTER 4

I GOT HIM! I'VE CAPTURED KARNAK!

THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE!
I'VE JUST
NABBED
HIM!

BUT
WHICH IS
THE **REAL**
ONE?

GOOD GRAVY! KARNAK'S USED ONE OF THE MAGIC VIALS TO DUPLICATE HIMSELF MANY TIMES OVER--WHICH MAKES HIM MANY TIMES AS DANGEROUS!

WITH THE SKILLFUL HANDS OF ACE MORGAN AT THE CONTROLS, THE **CHALLENGERS'** PLANE DARTS LIKE A GNAT BETWEEN THE WEAVING TENTACLES OF THE SEA MONSTER...

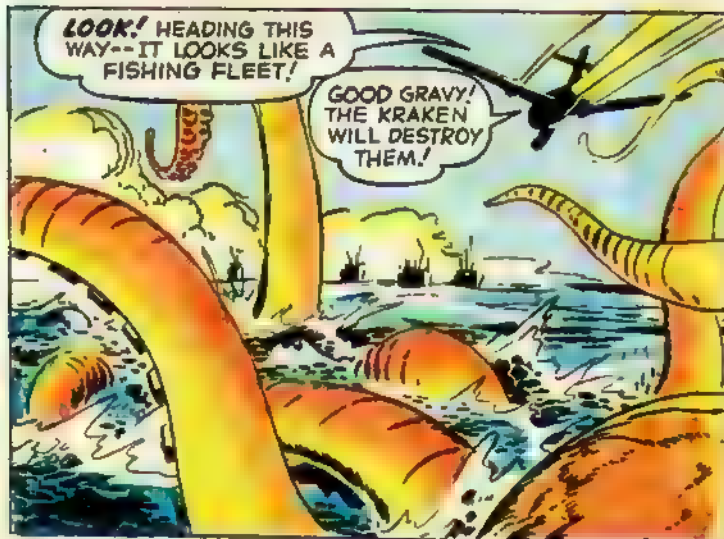
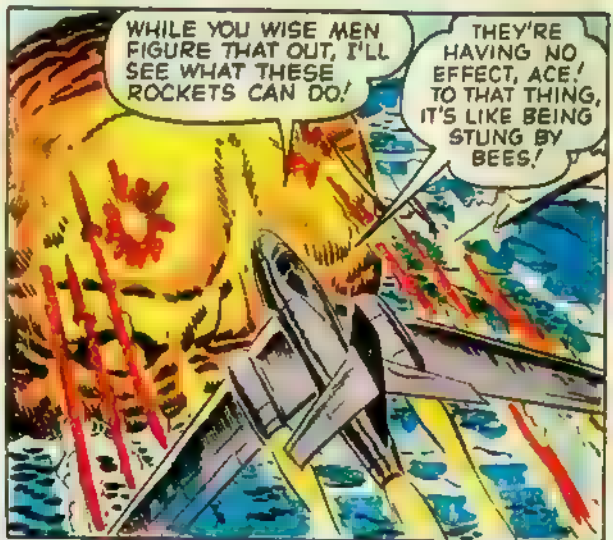
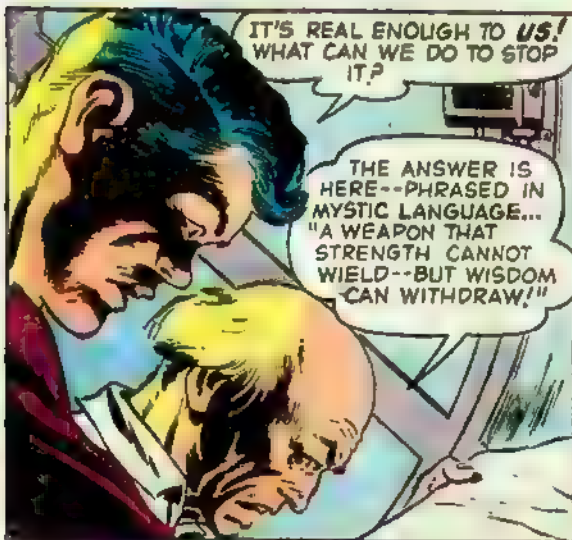
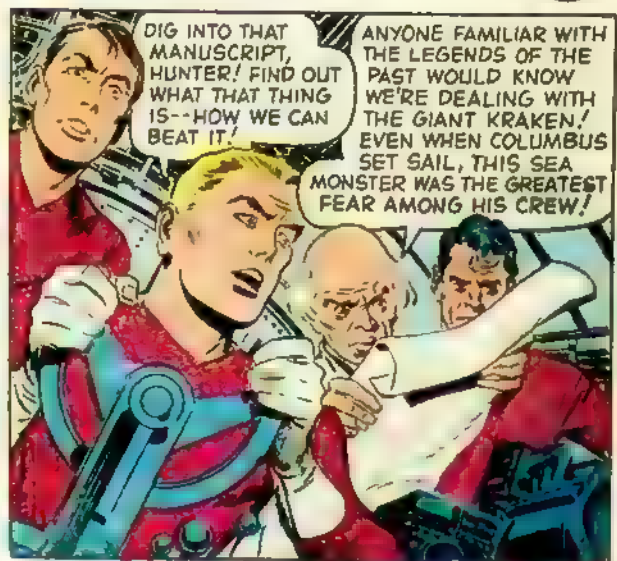
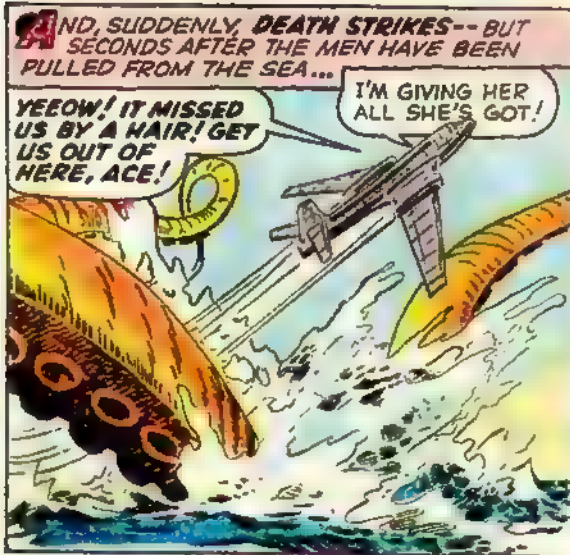
WOW! THAT
LAST SWIPE
ALMOST
GOT US!

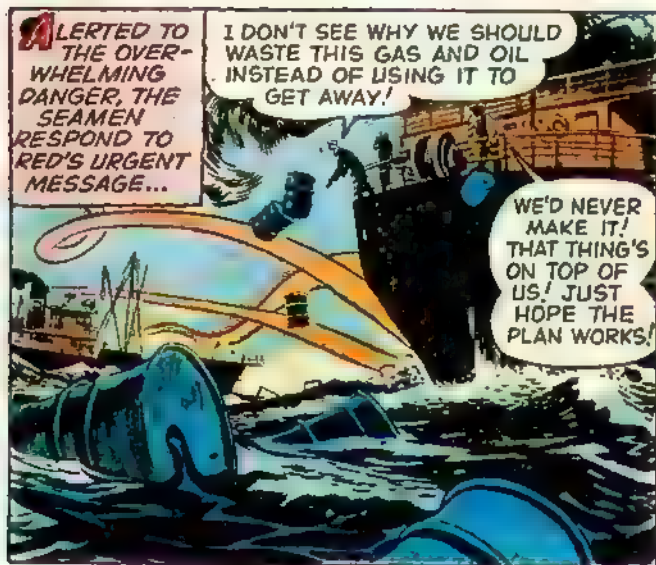
**HOLD ON!
I'M GOING
TO LAND
NEAR RED
AND
ROCKY!**

DEATH IS ALL ABOUT THEM--CHURNING THE
WATERS--WHIPPING THE AIR...BUT ACE
EFFECTS A LANDING!

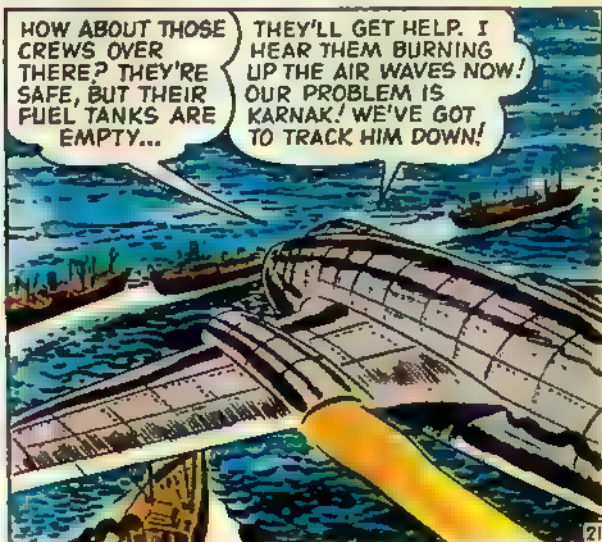
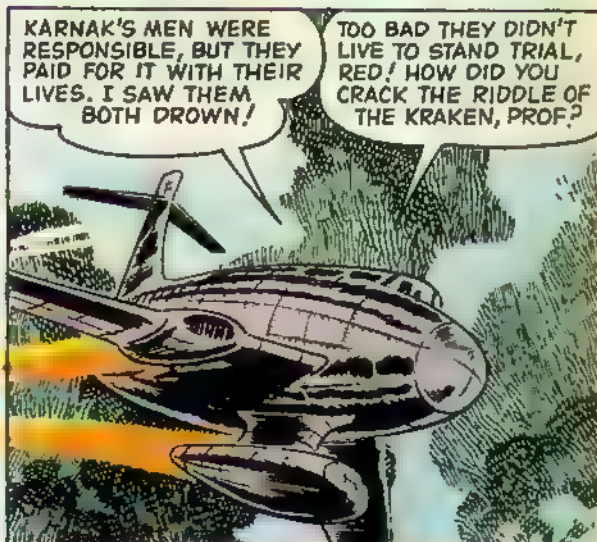
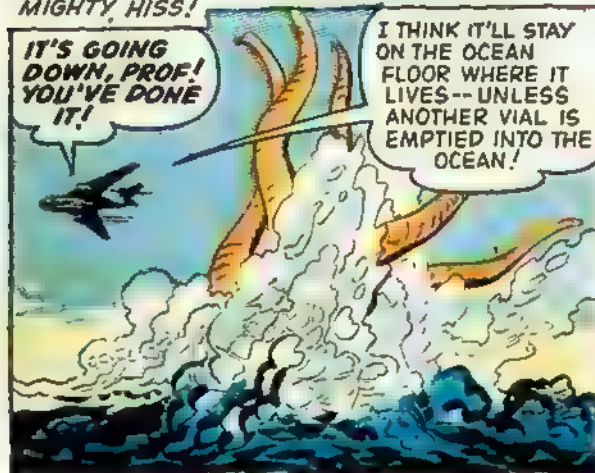
OF ALL THE FOOLHARDY THINGS TO TRY! NOW WE'RE ALL FINISHED!

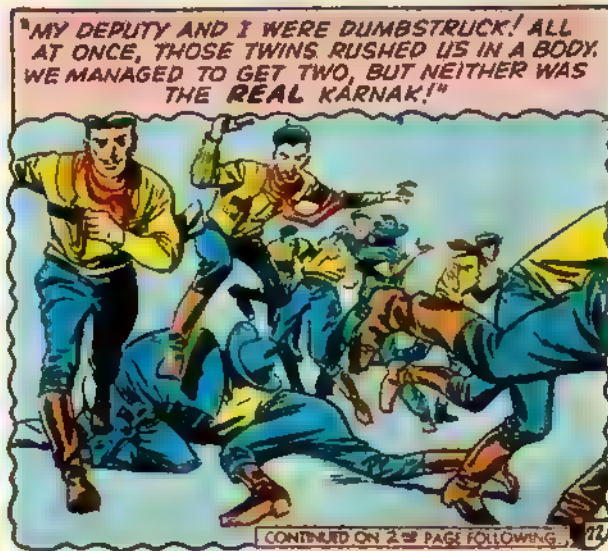
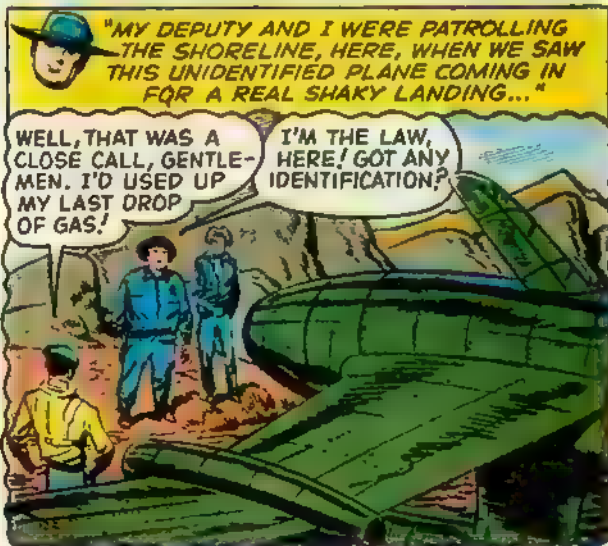
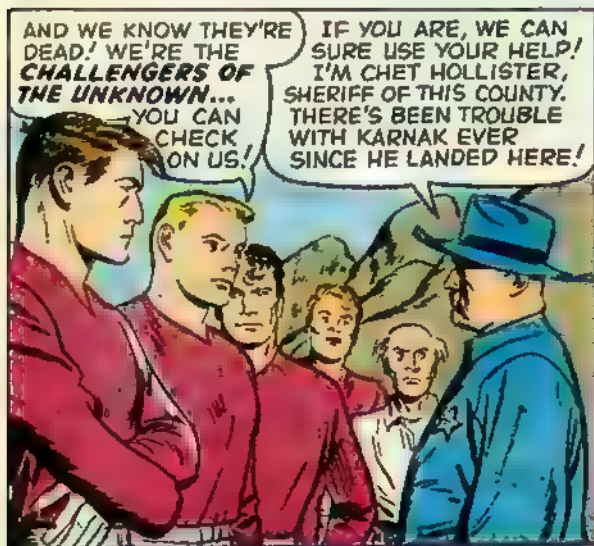
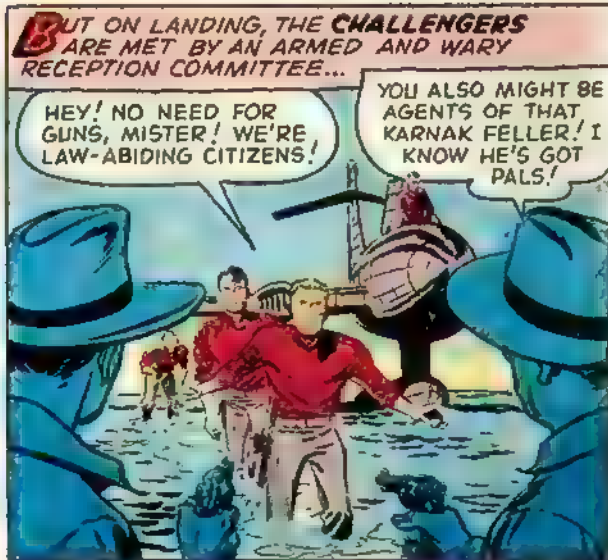
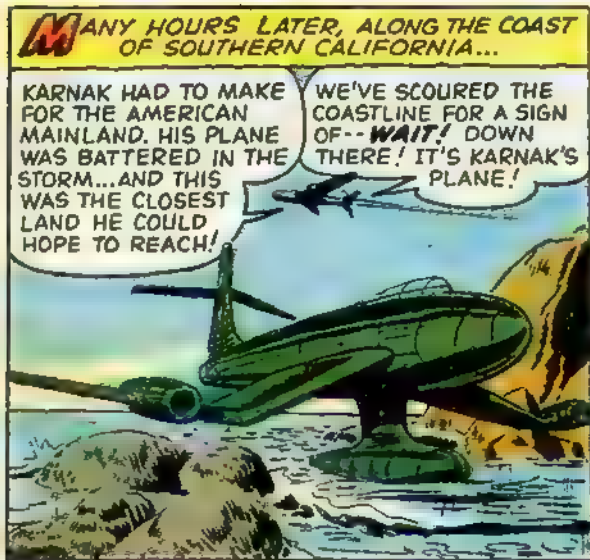
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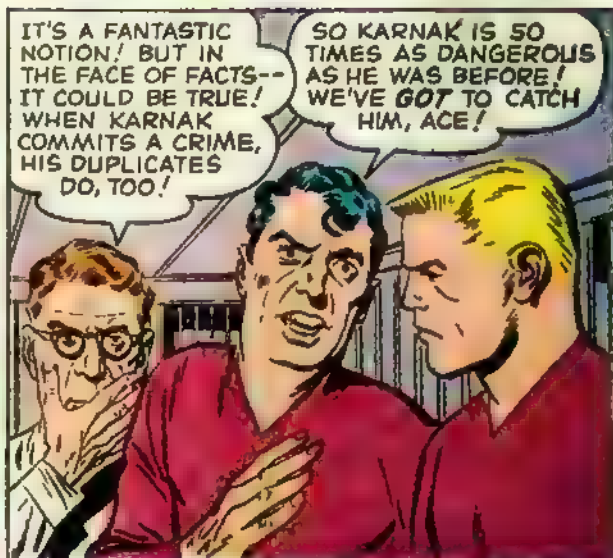
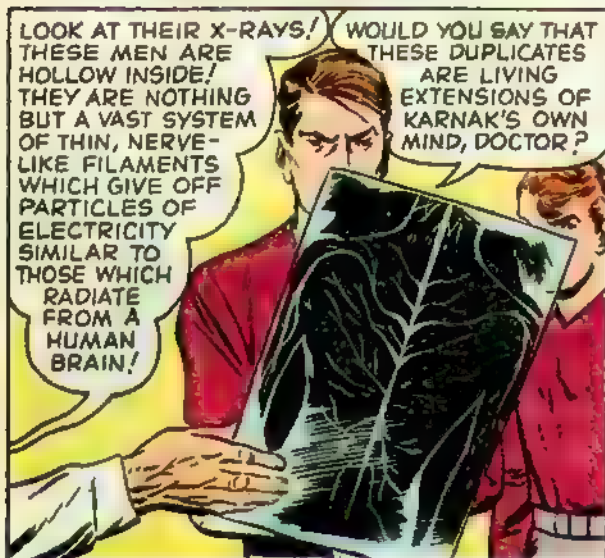
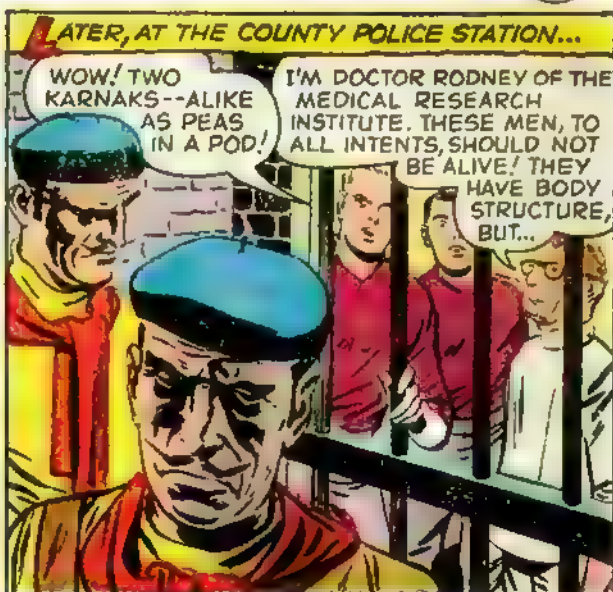




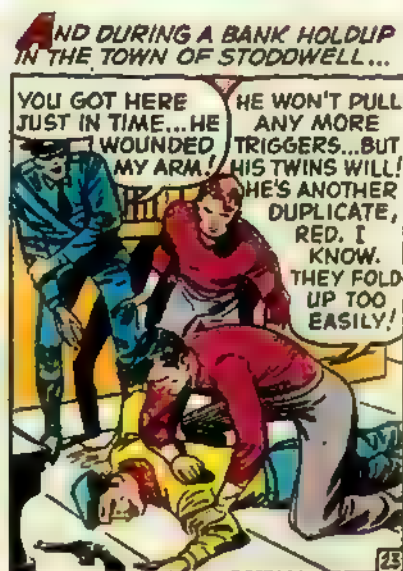
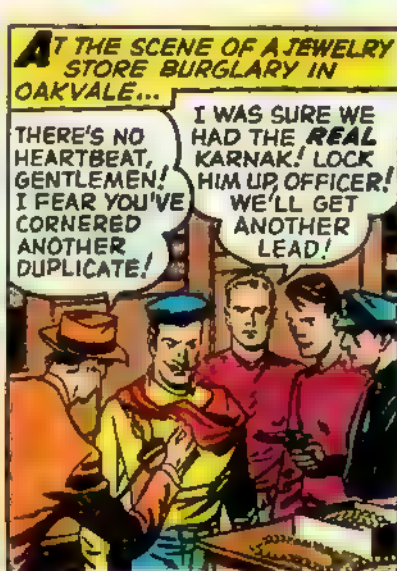
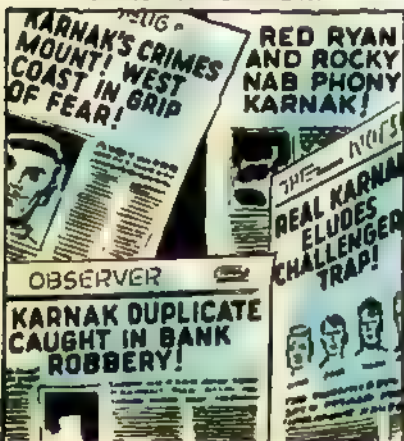
NO SOONER DOES THE KRAKEN STRIKE THE OIL-COVERED WATERS THAN IT BEGINS TO THRASH ABOUT WILDLY AND SUBMERGE WITH A MIGHTY, HISS!







THE MANHUNT IS ON--BUT MORE GRIM THAN BEFORE, AND HEADLINES RELATE THE PROGRESS OF THE CHALLENGERS...





DIRECT CURRENTS

Greetings, DC fans—the Big E is back, to give you a rundown on coming attractions from the NOW comic line. We have some great issues this month; and even greater to come. Only two months more till our own Jack of Diamonds, **Jack Kirby**, hits the stands with the first of his new creations—**THE FOREVER PEOPLE**—to be followed shortly by **THE NEW GODS** and **MR. MIRACLE**! Meanwhile, next month marks the super-big change in **SUPERMAN**. And as for this month's line-up—well, read on!

RUSS HEATH has both written and illustrated a terrific **Easy Company** tale for the Dec. **OUR ARMY AT WAR**. It concerns two buddies in the heat of battle. One goes out of their foxhole against the enemy—but why doesn't his pal cover him or help him? Is it because—ah! Read the story! Also in issue #226 is an exciting tale called **"Up, Up and Away."** No, it is NOT about a super-hero with an "S" on his chest! It's on sale **October 1**.

We were talking about **Kirby**—and you'll find some of his finest work in the Jan. **CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN**. It's a classic of adventure and suspense entitled **"Menace of the Ancient Vials."** The **CHALLS** are one of DC's top features, and there's no one like **Kirby** to make these death-cheaters come alive in the comic pages. Believe you me, this is one no fan of action or comic art will want to by-pass. Remember—it's #77, on sale **Oct. 1**.

Want to go **"Where Dead Men Walk"**? That's the title of the tale authored by **Jack Oleck** and illoed by **Gray Morrow** for **HOUSE OF SECRETS** #89 (Jan.) Also in this ish, your host, **Abel**, is waiting with an off-beat tale scripted by **Gerry Conway** and drawn by **Don Heck**—**"A Taste of the Dark Fire"**—wherein a rabbi and a priest team up to battle a witch. The chills begin when the mag comes out—on **Oct. 1**!

If someone discovered **SUPERBOY**'s secret identity, could he blackmail the **Boy of Steel**? That's the problem posed in **"Easy Rider to Doom,"** the cover tale in the December issue of the **Boy Blockbuster's** mag. But that's far from all! There's a great time-travel adventure, too—bearing the intriguing title: **"Superboy's Biggest Blunder."** So far, editor **Murray Boltinoff** won't tell me what that blunder is—so I guess we'll all have to wait till #170 comes out, **Oct. 6**.

Do you think all the weird noises at the now almost legendary **Woodstock Festival** were made by hippies? Ever think there might have been even stranger creatures around? You'll meet one in **"The Phantom of the Woodstock Festival,"** featured in the Jan. **UNEXPECTED** (#122). And that's only for starters! Also in this number are two more tales: **"Lady Killer"** and **"Scarecrow."** If you don't get your mitts on this one, you'll be missing a triple thrill. It comes out **Oct. 6**.

Another of DC's 64-page smasheroos is **FROM BEYOND THE UNKNOWN**! And does Editor **Julie Schwartz** have a pleasing potpourri in the January ish! **"Station MARS on the Air"** is cover-featured. **Martians** land on **Earth**—and find that all life has been wiped out on our world—but when they return to **Mars**, their telescopes say it isn't so! Then you'll see **Cleopatra**, **Columbus** and **Napoleon** in a modern city, in **"Across the Ages"**; view the problem of convincing people of another planet you're from **Earth**, in **"Riddle of the Counterfeit Earthmen"**; and thrill to the epic conclusion of **"Earth Shall Not Die,"** the **Denny O'Neil-Murphy Anderson** epic about **Glenn Merritt**! #8, on the stands **Oct. 8**.

Have you wanted to learn more about **Superman's** home world, **Krypton**? Then pick up the January **GIANT SUPERMAN** (#232; G-78). It's all about that vanished planet, and leads off with one of the most requested tales we've ever published—**"Superman's Return to Krypton"**—the novel which introduced **Lyla Lerrol**, the lovely **Kryptonian** actress. Then there's a terrific surprise tale which teams **Superboy** with **Superman** when a city from **Krypton** reaches **Earth**; you'll flip when you learn who **"Superman"** really is! Add **"The Fugitive from the Phantom Zone"** and **"Father's Day on Planet Krypton"** and you have a top ish—on sale **Oct. 13**!

Jack Kirby's second **JIMMY OLSEN** job is one of the best yet! You'll set off with **Jim**, the **Newsboy Legion** (in their **Whiz Wagon**) and the cycling **Outsiders** on the **Zoomway** that leads to the mysterious **Mountain of Judgment**. Only **Superman** knows the secret of this place—but he's been zapped by a ray containing **Green Kryptonite**! So he has no way of aiding his pal on the **Zoomway**, as **Jimmy** runs into the most bizarre perils yet! It's the **December** issue, #134, and it's on sale **Oct. 13**!

G.I. COMBAT is now a 25c **GIANT**! 64 pages of explosive battle action in every issue! And your old friend, **Jeb Stuart**, commander of the **Haunted Tank**, is still there, to usher you into a blockbuster of adventure on the field of combat. The January issue (#145) takes **Jeb** and his crew into a **North African** mystery surrounding a bomber found in the desert—an eerie ghost plane, with no signs of life! This—and much more—on sale **Oct. 8**!



LET'S CHAT WITH THE CHALLS

Address all mail to:
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN
National Periodicals
909 Third Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022



Dear Editor:

The resplendent reprint, "Ultivac Is Loosed," which comprised Issue #75 of your magnanimous magazine, was certainly graciously accepted by this reader. Ah, for the good old days of those marvelous, mystifying, menacing yarns! Uninhibited, unpretentious, and unexceptional! Fearsome beasts and unearthly terrors were regularly threatening our poor, vulnerable Earth, and yet, each tale was handled with a distinct, highly individual style which instantly personalized it in the reader's eyes.

Fortunately for earthly progress, times, tastes, and ultimately, society change. Unfortunately for our Challs, all the ensuing changes were not necessarily good ones. However, in Bob Brown's later days, and with the advent of that master scriptwriter, Denny O'Neil, they once more hit the top.

But, goldarn it, even though I've been praising you for the presentation of this powerful piece of fantasmological prose, I must beg you to refrain from doing so in the future. Why this unprecedented change of character? Maybe because Denny O'Neil has spoiled me.

You have stated that you are "ever ready to comply with the slightest request." Holy Conservatism! We fans have been bombarding your offices with *GIANT* request for years, but to no avail. Give us a *CHALLS GIANT*, please!

Reliving the past with Issue #75 made me hungry for the scintillating quality which prevailed in the Challs' earlier works. Perhaps now that "Prince" Kirby (only Infantino is "King" to me!) has quit your competitor, he may return to his old DC haunts. I realize this is an impossibility, but I can dream, can't I?

Jim Vecchio, Bridgeport, Conn.

No dream, Jim-boy, but 14-karat gold reality. Jack's already taken over *JIMMY OLSEN-SUPERMAN'S PAL* (currently on sale), and is developing more classics in the Kirby manner—new, mind-shattering, eye-filling spectacular sagas of his own ingenious and masterful making.

Somehow, a *CHALLS GIANT* hasn't slipped into our schedule, so let's consider the contents of the previous two issues, plus this, as being comparable. For the record-keepers and frenetic fans, "Menace of the Ancient Vials," by Jolting Jack with an assist from Wally Wood, first appeared in *SHOWCASE* #12, Jan.-Feb. 1958.

As we pointed out previously, Bob Brown's talented brushwork is now on view in *SUPERBOY* and

occasionally in *DETECTIVE*'s *Batman*. And "King" Carmine Infantino has laid down his pencils and pens in favor of editorial-directing the far-reaching realm of DC's magazines.

Interested inquiries about Jack Kirby's status have been pouring in from his aficionados. Whatever happened between his former employers and Jack, which prompted his resignation, must remain his own business. Their loss is our gain. We're delighted—no, wild with joy!—to have him back with us!—Ed.

CHALLS CHIT-CHAT: "Deadman's appearance with our Challs in #74 was a natural," writes Rudy Rankins of Houston, Tex. "It should have a sequel if not pairing them permanently, rendered by Tuska and Adams. Deadman is ideally suited for the role; his characterization is in the tradition of the Challs themselves. The Challs were given a new lease on life to become the Legion of Death Cheaters while Boston Brand was awarded a second chance after death to become Deadman." (An inspired idea, Rudy. We'll see, we'll see... Ed.)

"I'm madly in love with Corinna. Frankly, I'd love to come to New York to meet her, but the subsequent jolt of actually seeing her would turn me into a vegetable," says Jim Williams of Waltham, Mass. And, on the other hand, Mike Jeffries from Montague, Mich. snaps, "Take that girl out!" While D. A. Evans suggests from Sunnymead, Calif., "Why don't you add another girl besides Corinna? Rocky's sure to tumble for a cute, dark-haired, dark-eyed lass." (You forgot to include her age, height, and weight, pal!—Ed.)

"Just for the record, going back to #72, who wrote and drew that fabulous four-page filler, 'Nobody Lives Forever, or Do They?'" asks Bill Keys of Pittsburgh, Pa. (Dave Wood did the script, and John Calnan handled the artwork.—Ed.)

"Please consider my brother and me for the Death Cheaters Club," pens Phil Pennington from Nashville, Tenn. "We were driving home one night just after the snow had melted, leaving some patches of ice. My brother applied the brakes to ease the car going over a bump. We slid across the road, towards an embankment as the headlights went out, then slid back. Completely out of control, the car rushed headlong onto a front lawn. The headlights suddenly snapped on, revealing a large tree in front of us. My brother no sooner pushed me down on the floorboard when we crashed. I hit my head on the dashboard, but other than that neither of us suffered any injuries. We found out soon afterwards that our car had sideswiped the tree."



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SHOWCASE

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NO. 12

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presents CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

ANOTHER
MONSTROUS
CREATURE
RELEASED FROM
ONE OF THOSE
MAGIC BOTTLES!
WE'RE TRAPPED!



Featuring
**MENACE
OF THE
ANCIENT
VIALS!**